



The Gift of Righteousness (Part -1)
God's Gracious Gift
Sunday March 05, 2023

OUR STANDING BEFORE GOD – GOD'S PERCEPTION OF ME

We know that God is perfect, holy, and just. God is great, infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. We know God hates sin. We are earthly, mortal beings, and we dare approach God and come before Him in worship and prayer.

What do we think of God's perception of us? How does God perceive or look at us?

When we approach God in worship and prayer, do we always approach God with a sense of guilt, shame, and condemnation? Do we always imagine God as looking at us with fiery eyes of judgment, ready to expose our sin, condemning and judging us and ready to strike us down?

When we do wrong, commit sin, God corrects and convicts us through our conscience, through His Word, and through His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lets us know that He has been grieved or quenched. God's correction and conviction leads us to a place of godly sorrow that produces repentance, which is a good thing. We humble ourselves before God, confess and turn away from sin, as the Scriptures instruct us. We receive the cleansing of the blood of Jesus Christ, that washes us clean. We receive God's gift of forgiveness.

However, to continue in a state of guilt, shame, and condemnation is not what God intends for us. The devil, our enemy, is the accuser of the brethren. He accuses us day and night, telling us that we are unfit, unwelcome, and not accepted before God.

Living under guilt, shame, condemnation and under satan's accusations cripples the believer. Believers stop serving God, feel unfit to pray or do any other kind of ministry, because of being under condemnation.

RIGHTEOUSNESS – A FREE GIFT OF GRACE

As believers we must know that God has given to us an amazing gift – the free gift of righteousness. God Himself has declared us righteous in His eyes, because of the blood Jesus shed for us. We are justified, acquitted, made clean, are holy, pure, and accepted in His eyes.



JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE

Romans 3:22-24

22 even **the righteousness of God**, through faith in Jesus Christ, **to all and on all** who believe. For there is no difference;
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
24 being **justified freely by His grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Notice Paul is referring to “the righteousness of God”. This is God’s own character or nature of being absolutely righteous and sinless. This righteousness is “through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe”.

Though we are sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God, because of the redemption that is in Christ, we have been justified freely by His grace.

The words “righteous” and “justified” come from the same Greek word and are synonymous, and can be used interchangeably. To be righteous means to be justified.

God has made you righteous and justified in His eyes.

God has given you His righteousness.

God has done this freely by His grace, because of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

We do not earn this. We cannot get this based on works.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might **become the righteousness of God in Him**.

In Christ we have become the righteousness of God.

RIGHTEOUSNESS - GOD’S AMAZING GIFT TO US

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of **the gift** of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

We have received immeasurable, overflowing grace and the gift of righteousness.

We once again want to emphasize THE GIFT of righteousness.



LIVING FROM THIS PLACE OF GRACE

Romans 5:1-2

1 Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom also we have access by faith into **this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Now that we have been justified, made righteous by faith, we have peace with God. We are in good standing before God. God is no longer ‘mad’ or ‘angry’ with us. We stand in a place of grace. We are positioned before God in a place of divine favor.

We must learn to live from this place of grace and divine favor.

Understanding this truth of being made righteousness in Him, will change our perception - how we perceive ourselves spiritually, and what we think about how God looks at us. This is very important because it affects:

- how we see ourselves as we approach God
- how we deal with shame, guilt, and condemnation
- how we stand up against the accusations and attacks of the enemy (satan)
- how we face life's challenges

THE WEIGHT OF GUILT AND SHAME

We may have heard people talk about “carrying guilt” or being “weighed down by guilt” for the wrong they may have done. Psychologists tell us that feeling guilty is a complex emotion that results in many other feelings. To a certain degree feeling guilty for the wrong we have done is healthy because it then compels us to change and take corrective action. However, if we continue to carry guilt and are weighed down by guilt and shame, this could lead to emotional distress. Here again, psychologists tell us based on research that **people who live under the weight of guilt may experience anxiety, stress, sadness, feelings of worthlessness, low self-esteem, regret, loneliness, or engage in critical self-talk.**

Source: <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2013/10/08/weighed-down-guilt-research-shows-its-more-metaphor>

FREEDOM IN HIS PRESENCE

Let’s get back to understanding a little more about living from our place of grace and favor before God, because we have been justified and made righteous in His eyes.



First, let's specifically deal with how we see ourselves as we approach God and how we related to God, because of the gift of righteousness He has given to us.

HOLY, BLAMELESS, ACCEPTED

Ephesians 1:4-6

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Notice, the Scriptures teach us that we are holy and blameless before Him in love. We are accepted in the Beloved, that is, in Christ.

Hence, as we engage in worship and prayer, we do so, know that we are blameless and accepted (pleasing) in His eyes.

QUALIFIED AND FIT

Colossians 1:12

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

We also learn that we have been made qualified, fit or worthy to enjoy the blessings (inheritance) that God has for the saints, His holy ones.

Sometimes, we have this wrong notion that we are unfit or not qualified to enjoy the rich spiritual blessings God has for His people. We may even consider someone else who is more spiritual, as being better qualified to receive God's provisions.

However, the Scriptures teach us that **God has already made us fit, qualified, worthy, and deserving of all He has for His people.**

Luke 12:32

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

God is actually pleased to give us what is in the Kingdom.



YOU ARE A SAINT, NOT A SINNER

In almost all of Paul’s epistles, he addresses believers as saints. Regardless of their past, he calls them saints (holy ones) in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

We must learn to look at ourselves as God sees us.

God sees us as righteous. God sees us as holy ones or saints.

We were sinners in the past. But God does not call us sinners. He calls us saints. He addresses us as who we are now, in Christ Jesus.

We must learn to do the same about ourselves.

SIN/SERVANT MENTALITY VERSUS RIGHTEOUSNESS/SON MENTALITY

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

The apostle Paul teaches us that we did not receive a spirit of slavery (bondage), but the Spirit of adoption (sonship). So we do not cringe in morbid fear as slaves before God, but call God our “Abba, Father”.

COME BOLDLY, WITH CONFIDENCE AND FREEDOM

Ephesians 3:12

in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

We enter God’s presence boldly and with confidence (Hebrews 4:15-16). Our access to the Father is by the Spirit, and where the Spirit is there is freedom. Hence, we enjoy freedom in our access to the Father.

ENTER WITH AWE AND REVERENCE

And we know that we are in the presence of Almighty God. We worship, pray and serve before Him with reverence and godly fear (honor).



Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

One thought we need to address, today:

WHAT IF WE SIN?

Some people claim that (a) *a believer cannot sin*, or (b) *a believer's sin is not seen by God*, or maybe (c) *a believer's sin is already forgiven and so is not considered a sin*. None of these notions are Biblical. We cannot support any of these ideas from New Testament Scripture. On the contrary, the Bible teaches us to repent, confess, receive cleansing, and forsake sin. We also need to cleanse our own conscience of all guilt and shame, so that our own heart does not condemn us.

IF WE SIN, WE DON'T DENY THAT WE HAVE SINNED

Proverbs 28:13

He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

We are all familiar with the passage in 1 John, which is written to believers.

1 John 1:6-10

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

When we sin, we follow the instructions given to us here in 1 John 1:6-10.

CORRECTION AND CONVICTION

God corrects and convicts us through our conscience, through His Word (2 Timothy 3:16), and through His Holy Spirit. We accept His correction, confess and receive the cleansing of the blood of Jesus.



Our sin affects our ability to relate to God because we know we have done something that has displeased His heart.

GODLY SORROW PRODUCES REPENTANCE

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

We understand the importance of godly sorrow over the wrong we have done and sin that we have committed. But this brings us to a place of repentance, and we get ourselves right with God.

GUILT, SHAME, CONDEMNATION

We must learn to put away the guilt, shame and condemnation that sometimes continues to linger after we have confessed and received cleansing.

1 John 3:20-21

20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

If our heart continues to condemn us, then we cannot have confidence toward God, even though God knows all things, and He knows that the blood has cleansed us. The “problem” is now on our side.

CLEARING OUR OWN CONSCIENCE

Hebrews 10:19-22

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.



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This is why the writer of Hebrews teaches us that as we enter boldly through the blood of Jesus, we must also have our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience. This sprinkling, refers to the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 12:24, 1 Peter 1:2). The instruction here is that the same blood that gives us boldness to enter the holiest, is also the same blood that cleanses our own conscience from self-condemnation, guilt and shame (an evil conscience). So when you feel like condemning yourself, remind yourself, what the blood of Jesus has done for you. Remind yourself that you have been justified and made righteous by the blood of Jesus. Remind yourself that you have peace with God freely by His grace.

SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Romans 3:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 1:4-6; Hebrews 10:19-22*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, How could God give us His own righteousness as a free gift? According to the Scriptures, what is the basis on which God could do something like this?

2, Discuss how we as believers can accept what God has done for us – making us righteous with His own righteousness. How does this affect how we relate to God in worship, prayer and service to Him?



3, What are the negative effects of living under the weight of guilt, shame and condemnation, both from a spiritual standpoint, as well as a mental health standpoint?

4, Based on the instruction given in Scripture, how do we clear our own conscience of guilt, shame and condemnation, if we sin?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon we explore the powerful truth of the gift of righteousness that God has given to every believer, freely by His grace. Our standing before God – God’s perception of me is important. We discover that God has given to us His own righteousness as a free gift of grace. We have been justified freely by His grace. Righteousness is God’s amazing gift to us through what Jesus Christ did for us on the Cross. We must learn to live from this place of grace. We can experience freedom in God’s presence because we know we are holy, blameless, accepted in His eyes. He has made us qualified, fit, worthy and deserving of all He makes available to us in His Kingdom. You are a saint, not a sinner. Learn how to come boldly, with confidence and freedom before His throne of grace. If we sin, we don’t deny that we have sinned, we learn how to repent, confess, receive cleansing and forsake sin. We learn how to clear our own conscience from all feelings of guilt, shame, and condemnation.

Many believers continue to live under the weight of guilt, shame, and condemnation without realizing that they have been made righteous in Christ. If we continue to carry guilt and are weighed down by guilt and shame, this could lead to emotional distress. Here again, psychologists tell us based on research that people who live under the



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weight of guilt may experience anxiety, stress, sadness, feelings of worthlessness, low self-esteem, regret, loneliness, or engage in critical self-talk. This sermon will help set you free!

KEYWORDS

gift of righteousness, free gift of righteousness, righteousness by faith, gracious gift, grace gift, righteousness and grace, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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